REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, the specification and claims 1 and 6 have been amended. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 are pending and under consideration.

OBJECTION TO THE TITLE:

In the Office Action, at page 2, the title was objected to as not being descriptive. In view of the proposed amended title set forth above, the outstanding objection to the title should be resolved.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

In the Office Action, at page 2, claims 1-3 and 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,344,794 to Ulrich et al. ("Ulrich") and U.S. Patent No. 6,611,881 to Gottfurcht ("Gottfurcht"). The rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Ulrich generally provides access to awareness area databases maintained at a central server by a client through a network. See column 11, line 49, to column 12, line 27. When information is displayed when the client performs a personnel search, several fields (e.g., location, department, organization, etc.) may be highlighted showing a link to additional information about the hyperlinked item. An edit option, a do not disturb option, and an out to lunch or gone home option are available.

Gottfurcht generally describes providing a user access to accounts to which the user has been granted access. Only the particular user's accounts may be provided to the particular user such that the group members maintain privacy. See column 11, lines 19-34.

However, neither Ulrich nor Gottfurcht, individually or combined, teach or suggest, "creating databases according to groups and designating one of the databases which an application program uses," as recited in independent claims 1 and 6. Rather than creating databases according to groups, Ulrich limits its description to allowing fields related to the particular client and providing hyperlinks to those fields. There is no creation of databases or

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designation of one of the databases that an application program would use. Similarly, <u>Gottfurcht</u> is silent as to providing such claimed recitations.

Accordingly, assuming *arguendo*, that <u>Ulrich</u> and <u>Gottfurcht</u> were combined, a combination thereof would be silent as to providing "creating databases according to groups and designating one of the databases which an application program uses," as recited in independent claims 1 and 6, thereby excluding the influence of databases of other groups resulting in high-speed processing.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that independent claims 1 and 6 and related dependent claims be allowed.

In the Office Action, at page 4, claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,344,794 to Ulrich et al. ("<u>Ulrich</u>"), U.S. Patent No. 6,611,881 to Gottfurcht ("<u>Gottfurcht</u>"), and U.S. Patent No. 5,428,778 to Brookes ("<u>Brookes</u>"). The rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

The arguments presented above are incorporated herein to support the patentability of claim 4/1 over <u>Ulrich</u> and <u>Gottfurcht</u>.

<u>Brooks</u> generally provides a security system ensuring that an information item of type Group can only be disseminated to members of the user's group. <u>See</u> column 5, line 56, to column 6, line 8. However, similarly to <u>Ulrich</u> and <u>Gottfurcht</u>, <u>Brooks</u> does not teach or suggest, "creating databases according to groups and designating one of the databases which an application program uses," as recited in independent claim 1. The cited reference is devoid of any teaching or suggestion of creating databases according to the groups. Rather than providing for a designation of a database that an application program uses, <u>Brooks</u> limits its description to alerting users to disseminated information and storing a plurality of parameters associated with information items.

Accordingly, assuming *arguendo*, that <u>Ulrich</u>, <u>Gottfurcht</u>, and <u>Brooks</u> were combined, a combination thereof would be silent as to teaching or suggesting all the recitations of independent claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that independent claim 1 and related dependent claims be allowed.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.
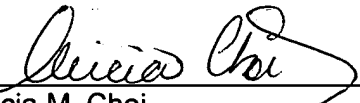
If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner's contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.
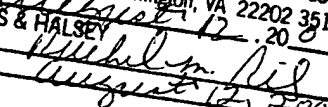
Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: ____August 12, 2004____   By: _____

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